## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /058 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS AID/FFP:AMERCKER (SUBSTANCE) AID/ASIA:PBOUGHTON (SUBSTANCE) -----210040Z 115567 /73

O 210009Z MAY 77 ZFF4 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY DACCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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DELIVER 9 A.M. MAY 21

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, BG, US

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL KHAN'S MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

- 1. SEPTELS REPORT ON ADMIRAL KHAN'S MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB. A FURTHER MESSAGE REVIEWS THE STATISTICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US ON STOCKS, DRAWDOWNS, IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT. WE WISH TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN TO BANGLADESH WHILE AVOIDING AGREEING TO MORE ASSISTANCE THAN CAN BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED OR WHICH WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BANGLADESH'S DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT.
- 2. OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION BASED ON THE DATA PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT INCREASE TITLE I GRAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVELS ABOVE THE 350,000 TON LEVEL ALREADY OFFERED. WE WOULD KEEP THE MATTER UNDER REVIEW AND CONSIDER ADDITIONAL REQUESTS IF THE EMBASSY BELIEVED THAT THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED SUFFICIENTLY SO AS TO JUSTIFY SUCH A DECISION.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THREE POSSIBLE ACTIONS: (A) JUDGING FROM YOUR DATA THERE WOULD APPEAR TO

BE AMPLE PORT CAPACITY IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER TO ACCOMMODATE AT LEAST PART OF THE 150,000 TONS NOW SCHEDULED TO

ARRIVE IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER. SUCH AN ACCELERATION OF SHIPMENTS WOULD MAKE ROOM LATER IN THE YEAR FOR ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS, IF REQUIRED. DOES THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO SUCH A SHIFT?

- (B) BOTH ADMIRAL KHAN AND IMF REPRESENTATIVE SIBER HAVE STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF SHIPPING RICE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, WOULD THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO A SHIFT IN THE BREAKDOWN OF THE 150,000 TONS TO 100,000 TONS RICE AND 50,000 TONS WHEAT?
- (C) ADMIRAL KHAN'S CONCERN SEEMED TO CENTER ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A FALL-WINTER CROP FAILURE, THE POSSIBILITY OF WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT. WOULD THE EMBASSY HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO US REITERATING TO ADMIRAL KHAN YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE EMBASSY WILL KEEP THE FOOD SITUATION UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW. IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO TALKS IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER ON FY 78 TITLE I SHIPMENTS. THIS WOULD PERMIT EARLY AGREEMENT AND SHIPMENTS.
- 4. IF AND WHEN INTERAGENCY CONCURRENCE IS OBTAINED. WE WILL ALSO INFORM ADMIRAL KHAN THAT WE CAN PROVIDE 10,000 TONS OF VEGETABLE OIL.
- 5. DUE TO OUR DESIRE TO OBTAIN YOUR COMMENTS AND GIVE A CONFIDENTIAL

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SPEEDY REPLY TO KHAN, THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH ALL OFFICES CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE ABOVE POSSIBILITIES WITH THE BDG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MAY 23.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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